

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

July 14, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held via teleconference at 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

### 1. Roll Call:

<b>Present:</b>	President Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner	<b>Bích Ngọc Cao</b> <b>Arianne Edmonds</b> <b>Dale Franzen</b> <b>Josefa Salinas</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	Vice-President	<b>Kathryn Eidmann</b>

**Also present via teleconference:** City Librarian John F. Szabo; Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman; Deputy City Attorney Basia Jankowski; Library staff and members of the public.

### 2. Opening Remarks: None

### 3. Approval of the Minutes:

#### a. Regular Meeting - May 26, 2022

It was moved by Board President Cao and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 26, 2022. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao/Edmonds/Franzen/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Eidmann).

#### b. Regular Meeting - June 9, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Board President Cao to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 9, 2022. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao/Edmonds/Franzen/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Eidmann).

#### c. Special Meeting - June 9, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Board President Cao to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 9, 2022. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao/Edmonds/Franzen/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Eidmann).

### 4. Public Comments on Matters

Within the Board's Jurisdiction: None.

## 5. City Librarian's Comments

**and Announcements:** City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following information:

- **Digital Connectivity Equity Fund:** The Library has received a grant for \$5.3 million from the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund. This grant will allow the Library to extend service on the existing 2,000 hotspots/chromebook kits in the Library's Tech2Go program and to acquire 5,000 kits for distribution to Angelenoes to address issues of digital equity and inclusion. Mr. Szabo thanked Emerging Technologies and Collections Division Librarian Jené Brown, Emerging Technology Senior Librarian Edwin Rodarte, and Director of Systems Alex Mui for helping secure funding for this program, and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles for providing funding for the backpacks and mice to complete the kits.

Board President Cao thanked Mr. Szabo for the update and said she was pleased to hear that the program is expanding. She asked what types of patrons are checking these bundles out.

Mr. Szabo said that the bundles are available to everyone, but they are being circulated and promoted in libraries that are specifically in areas where broadband access and digital equity broadband access is the lowest.

Board President Cao commented that in 2016 the United Nations declared Internet access a human right. It is not an amenity, it should be a public utility, so the work that the library is doing to close these gaps is really important.

Commissioner Edmonds asked if there was a plan to set aside any part of the budget to help with repairs to keep everything working.

Mr. Szabo replied that the equipment when it goes out is new and if individuals have difficulty with it, they can call and staff can walk them through and provide some assistance. If there is a problem with the equipment, they would return it and staff would simply provide them with another one.

- **First Partner of California visited the Wilshire Branch Library:** Staff welcomed Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the First Partner of California, for a special storytime program and tour of the library. Mr. Szabo said Siebel Newsom is highlighting libraries as a vital component for building a solid learning foundation through the First Partner's Summer Book Club. The 21 books selected for the program are divided into four age-appropriate groups and explore a variety of themes, such as empathy, mental health, diversity, and caring for our planet.
- **Aspen Ideas Festival:** Mr. Szabo reported that he was a speaker at the Aspen Ideas Festival, discussing the growing national trend around book challenges and book banning, and other organized efforts to restrict content in libraries. He noted that in 2021, the majority of the books that were challenged were on LGBTQ topics and by LGBTQ authors. Books by Black authors about Black experiences have been a major category of books that were challenged. He said having discussions like this at the festival are important to make people aware of this issue nationally and emphasize that libraries stand for intellectual freedom and diversity of collections across formats.
- **Diversity and Inclusion Apprenticeship (DAIA):** A recent *Los Angeles Times*' opinion piece highlighted one of Chinatown's Teen Council members, who is also one of our Diversity and Inclusion Apprenticeship (DAIA) interns. Recently, the Library hosted all of

the apprentices at Central Library with a breakfast, orientation, library tour and visit to the Rare Books Room. The goal is to have these individuals explore careers in libraries and to get exposed to the behind the scenes work that happens in libraries.

- **Mayor Garcetti and Man One Art Demo at the Chinatown Branch:** Last week, to mark the midpoint of our Summer Reading Challenge, Mayor Garcetti, Library Foundation President Stacy Lieberman and City Librarian John F. Szabo joined Man One at the Chinatown Branch Library, where Man One led the Chinatown Library Teens Leading Change Group on a workshop on how to do graffiti style lettering. The event was an opportunity for the Mayor to encourage Angelenos to participate in the Summer Reading Program, to have an arts workshop with Man One, and to thanked teens for their project that focuses on food insecurity and access to groceries, particularly among the senior population at Chinatown and to also recognize one of the strongest and most generous Friends of the Library group, which is the Friends of the Chinatown Library.
- **Taste of El Salvador:** An Administrative Clerk at the Felipe de Neve Branch organized the program “Small Taste of the Wonders of El Salvador.” The bilingual event drew more than 30 people for an introduction to Salvadoran food history and a cooking demonstration by Alicia Maher, a Gourmand Award winning author. The program was funded in part by a REFORMA grant and was designed to reach the significant El Salvadoran population in Felipe de Neve’s service area. The Library Foundation provided copies of Alicia Maher’s cookbook for the program attendees.
- **Univision 34:** Senior Librarian Lupie Leyva was interviewed recently in Spanish at the Benjamin Franklin Branch. She explained how the LAPL provides free resources through the New Americans Initiative and Tech2go to help people on their path toward citizenship.
- **Teens Leading Change Program:** This program offers teens a platform for creating exciting and impactful projects in their communities. The program helps teens learn about local government, how to make a project happen, and how to overcome hurdles. During the 2021-2022 cycle, teens developed a variety of projects to tackle a range of challenges in food insecurity, environmental racism, neighborhood beautification, reading engagement for children with learning disabilities, financial literacy, youth housing insecurity, and the school to prison pipeline. Over the last four and a half years since the initiative started, over 500 teens have participated in 39 projects.
- **Downtown Breakfast Club:** Mr. Szabo said he hosted the Downtown Breakfast Club at Central Library last month and provided the members with a tour of the building. He stated that he had joined this network of Downtown professionals at the start of this year to help promote the Library’s good work and the opportunities for lifelong learning we provide to everyone.
- **Los Angeles Football Club:** Mr. Szabo noted that to help close out Pride Month, he represented the Library as one of the Los Angeles Football Club’s Honorary Captains in their game against the New York Red Bulls at the Bank of America Stadium.

Commissioner Salinas asked whether the Library was doing anything to help promote the new 9-8-8 number that will be coming out Saturday.

Board President Cao added that there's a new phone number that connects people with mental health services and the hotline is now getting a short number, and she thanked Commissioner Salinas for bringing it up because it is something that staff should look into as a way to connect folks to mental health services.

**6. City Librarian's Reports:****Consent Item(s)**

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve Consent Items a and b. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao/Edmonds/Franzen/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Eidmann).

**a. Approval of Findings to Continue**

**Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to AB 361:** APPROVED.

*(Public Hearing was held at the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2021.)*

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3 (e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

**b. Recommendation to accept a gift from the Friends of the Woodland Hills Library for the "Hot Off The Press" Bestseller Program****LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2022-23 (C-17)**

RESOLVED, That a gift of \$2,000 received from the Friends of the Woodland Hills Library for the benefit of the Woodland Hills Branch Library be accepted; and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 257; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of the Woodland Hills Library, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

**7. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements**

- a. The Board received a letter dated June 16, 2022, from Mayor Eric Garcetti to the City Council regarding the reappointment of Ms. Dale Franzen to the Board of Library Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2027.
- b. Board President Cao announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., via Teleconference.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Bích Ngọc Cao  
President

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Raquel M. Borden  
Board Executive Assistant